

11 DECEMBER — BAPTISE

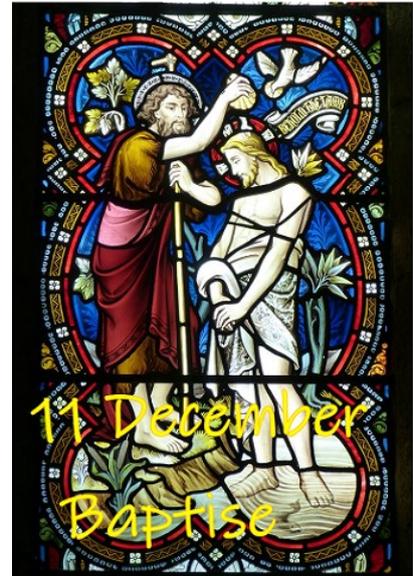
READING: MARK 1: 4

THIS MESSENGER WAS JOHN THE BAPTIST. HE WAS IN THE WILDERNESS AND PREACHED THAT PEOPLE SHOULD BE BAPTIZED TO SHOW THAT THEY HAD REPENTED OF THEIR SINS AND TURNED TO GOD TO BE FORGIVEN.

Lead Story Headline

The people who came to see John were dissatisfied and desperate. They came to him with a “God, I hope this works” look in their eye. They did not have the whole picture but they recognised a first step when they saw it.

Baptism is much more than a beginning to the Christian life. It expresses the identity which is ours in Jesus Christ and the shape of the life to which we are called. It enables the whole Church to see itself as a baptised community, called to partake in the life of God and to share in the mission of God to the world.



PRAYER:

GOD OUR FATHER, YOU SPOKE TO THE PROPHETS OF OLD OF A SAVIOUR WHO WOULD BRING PEACE. YOU HELPED THEM TO SPREAD THE JOYFUL MESSAGE OF HIS COMING KINGDOM. HELP US, AS WE PREPARE TO CELEBRATE HIS BIRTH, TO SHARE WITH THOSE AROUND US THE GOOD NEWS OF YOUR POWER AND LOVE. WE ASK THIS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, THE LIGHT WHO IS COMING INTO THE WORLD. AMEN.

Enrichment

If you were [Christened](#) and promises were made on your behalf by someone else, then take a look at the Christening information on the Church of England webpage. If you were never Christened and would like to consider adult baptism, then there is also information on [adult baptism](#).

Things to do

- Doves are often used to decorate Christmas trees. Doves represent peace, purity and love but can also represent the Holy Spirit which came down from heaven onto Jesus at his baptism. Make some doves to decorate your tree this year. A simple paper dove made from paper plates can be found [here](#).